

ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER

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REPORT FROM HER MAJESTY'S CONSULS AT JEDDAH RESPECTING A FUGITIVE SLAVE WHO ESCAPED TO HER MAJESTY'S SHIP *FAWN*.

WE have waited with some impatience for this Report. The fugitive made his escape on the 10th December, 1876. Mr. Oswald, the Acting Consul, failed to send in a report, but "treated it as an ordinary frequent occurrence to be summarily dealt with by the usual reference to the Governor." On his return to Jeddah Vice-Consul Wylde reported on the case on February 17th, 1877, which was received at the Foreign Office on the 26th of March. Consul Beyts also wrote to the Foreign Office, dated Jeddah, March 25th, 1877, which was received on April 9th. So that the public has been kept in suspense for six months. Such is the promptitude of communication through the Foreign Office between the Red Sea and the British public. The case was first reported in the March number of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, which contains a letter of inquiry addressed to Lord Derby, dated January 17th, 1877. The report in reply is

circulated in August. These dates speak for themselves.

Our readers will no doubt remember the particulars, and will therefore peruse the following official communications with keen interest. It is obvious that these letters contain no reference to the special point of the case, namely, that the fugitive had been very recently, that is within a few months, brought to Jeddah and sold to a Turk. This recent importation is a violation of Turkish law, which has repeatedly forbidden the trade in slaves, and has called upon its officials, under severe penalties, to put a stop to the same. There was, therefore, no necessity whatever for a surrender to the Governor. Nor was his surrender required by the last Fugitive Slave Circular of the Admiralty. For that allows ample discretion to the captain of an English vessel, or to the Consular agency, and especially requires that all their action must be guided by considerations of humanity. It is thus seen not only that the terms of the last Circular have been disregarded, but that the Acting Consul has become an accomplice in the violation of Turkish law. The Sultan might appeal against the British Consuls to our Home

Government for conniving with its own disobedient subordinates, and it would be difficult to frame a reply.

It will also startle the British public to learn from this correspondence that such cases are of frequent occurrence, and that surrender is the usual action of the Consulate at Jeddah. It would appear that if the slave has been subjected to great cruelties his liberty may be obtained, but if there is no plea of cruelty he is returned to his owner.

Mr. Wylde writes:—"Your Lordship is doubtless aware that in a fanatical country like the Hedjaz, where domestic slavery has been an institution from the time of Mohammed, it must always be a matter of extreme delicacy to interfere between master and slave, and when cases do arise where the consular protection is involved, non-residents can scarcely appreciate the difficulty there is in dealing with such cases, and the fact that is required to arrange them amicably." We heartily sympathise with Mr. Wylde in this difficulty, yet would suggest that the difficulty may be intensified by undue consideration, and a bold deed on the side of righteousness has often, in English history, entailed no evil consequences, but has won the respect of an unrighteous community and the admiration of the world. It is no part of the duty of a British Consul to protect slavery, and if this were clearly understood the treatment of slaves would be better, and the day of emancipation hastened.

If slaves are so happy and contented, as reported by British consuls—how is it that every care is taken to make escape impossible? and why are the authorities so fearful of a considerable number attempting to escape—if the fugitive gains his freedom on the deck of an English vessel? Consul Beyts admits that the British subjects at Jeddah—possess slaves. Has this escaped the notice of the Foreign Office? We will call Lord Derby's attention to the fact.

We deeply regret "the invariable custom" of British Consuls resident in slaveholding countries, and we trust that the new Convention, signed between Great Britain and Egypt for the suppression of the slave-trade, will be carried out with rigour, and that the terms of the Convention are such as will allow the suppression to be more than a sham.

"REPORT FROM HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL AT JEDDAH RESPECTING A FUGITIVE SLAVE WHO ESCAPED TO HER MAJESTY'S SHIP 'FAWN.'"

"No. 1.

"Vice-Consul Wylde to the Earl of Derby.
"(Received March 26.)"

"Jeddah, February 17, 1877.

"My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch, dated 23rd January, inclosing copy of a report that appeared in the *Times* newspaper, regarding a fugitive slave that swam off to Her Majesty's ship *Fawn*, and a copy of a letter from the Anti-Slavery Society.

"In reply to your Lordship's letter, I have the honour to inclose the deposition of the slave, taken by Mr. Oswald, who was then Acting Consul, which explains fully the slave's complaint.

"Captain Wharton, of the *Fawn*, under the circumstances, could not have acted otherwise than he did in the matter, and if he had retained the slave on board, such a proceeding would have acted as an inducement for others employed in the small sailing craft, and to domestic slaves on shore, to take refuge on board his ship.

"Your Lordship is doubtless aware that in a fanatical country like the Hedjaz, where domestic slavery has been an institution from the time of Mohammed, it must always be a matter of extreme delicacy to interfere between master and slave, and when cases do arise where the Consular protection is invoked, non-residents can scarcely appreciate the difficulty there is in dealing with such cases, and the fact that is required to arrange them amicably.

"The invariable custom of this Consulate has been to give shelter to any slave belonging to a Turkish subject who seeks protection, to inquire into his grievances, and to send him over to the Governor of the town, accompanied by a representative of this Consulate, to be given up to his master on the latter promising to treat his slave properly and kindly, and assuring the Governor that there shall be no further cause for complaint.

"The result has been satisfactory in most cases, and many slaves that have complained at the Consulate I have often seen subsequently about the town, and they say they are happy and contented.

"The domestic slavery of Jeddah does not partake of any hardships that are usually attached to slavery.

"The slaves, as a rule, are treated well, and properly fed and clothed.

"In such a large community as Jeddah there are, of course, some instances where too severe punishment is given by the master for offences committed, but there has never been a flagrant case of cruelty brought before this Consulate.

"I trust, my Lord, that this explanation will be deemed satisfactory,

"I have, &c.,

"(Signed) A. B. WYLDE."

"INCLOSURE IN No. 1.

"*Examination of male slave (a fugitive on board Her Majesty's ship "Fawn," handed over to this Consulate by Commander Wharton, R.N.) The slave swam on board on the morning of the 10th, the "Fawn" being at anchor in Jeddah harbour.*

"My name is Moorjan, ten years old (apparently about twenty). I am a Nubian from Ktogangoto. I was smuggled away by slave-dealers when quite young. My parents are still there or were left there. Was driven to Berber and Kosseir. Was brought with eight slaves by sea to Jeddah. Was sold by a slave-dealer here to Ibrahim Ajatau this year. I don't know for what price. Had been employed in a boat in the harbour landing cargo and passengers. My master has been making me fill ballast for steamers lately, and it is too cold, I cannot work every day on the reefs. No one told me to go to an English steamer. I knew from my heart that I would be better on board an English vessel. My master has not beaten me. I refused to stay because it was too cold to work in the water getting ballast. My master does not give me clothes enough.

"The owner of the slave, Ibrahim Ajatau, a boatman, to be called to the Consulate, requested to clothe and feed the said slave with proper attention. The slave to be handed over to his owner by the Kaimakam, in presence of the Consulate Dragoon.

"(Signed) J. S. OSWALD,

"Acting Consul.

"Jeddah, December 11th, 1876."

"No. 2.

"*Consul Beyts to the Earl of Derby.*

(Received April 9th.)

"[EXTRACT.]

"Jeddah, March 25th, 1877.

"With reference to the inquiry made in Foreign Office dispatch of the 23rd January, relating to a slave who had swum off to H.M.S. *Fawn*, at Jeddah, on 10th December last, and who was sent to the Consulate by Captain Wharton, of that vessel, and who, when on inquiry, proved to be the slave of a Turkish subject, and claimed by his master, through the Governor, was delivered up to that official by the Acting Consul, Mr. Oswald, in conformity with rules laid down by me for dealing with such cases, I regret that, in this special case, in which one of Her Majesty's ships was concerned, the Acting Consul did not deem it necessary to make a report, but treated it as an ordinary frequent occurrence to be summarily dealt with by the usual reference to the Governor.

"In manumitting all slaves belonging to British subjects at Jeddah who present themselves at the Consulate, I have carefully avoided interfering (beyond interposing for kinder treatment when necessary) with those who are proved to be the slaves of Ottoman subjects, and claimed by them as domestic slaves. One half of the population of Jeddah consists of slaves of this class, who, as a rule, are well treated and cared for, but, nevertheless, they have frequently run away from their masters at Medina, Mecca, and Jeddah, with the hope of obtaining their freedom at the British Consulate. Instances have occurred when such runaway slaves were found to belong to the authorities of Mecca and Jeddah, or men of high position living in the town. At first, when detaining them for a short time with the view that they may be satisfactorily identified before being delivered up, some commotion was created, when the Governor, taking alarm, begged that I would not offer encouragement to the runaways by bestowing even such temporary refuge as two or three days at the Consulate, as the Arabs were talking loud about it; and should any emergency arise, with the few troops at his command, he could not ensure protection to Europeans.

"The case in question which forms the subject of agitation at home is misstated

and exaggerated. The slave was claimed by his master, through the Governor, as the slave of an Ottoman subject; he was not delivered up by the Acting Consul before he was satisfied of that by the slave's own admission to the fact, or before the usual interposition had been made with the Governor for kinder treatment from the master on his behalf.

"I trust your Lordship will consider that the Acting Consul, beyond unfortunately failing to make an official report of the case, and thus erring in judgment, has otherwise acted rightly in delivering up to the local authorities a slave claimed by them as belonging to an Ottoman subject."

BREAKFAST TO W. LLOYD GARRISON, ESQ.

MR. LLOYD GARRISON, whose name will ever be associated with the abolition of slavery in America, and who for nearly fifty years had devoted himself with dauntless integrity and with complete unselfishness to the interests of humanity, is once again in England. He is travelling especially for the benefit of his health, and deprecated beforehand any attempt to draw him during his visit into the work of addressing public meetings. But the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society very properly felt that the opportunity should, if possible, be afforded Mr. Garrison of meeting, in a semi-public fashion, some few prominent friends of the cause to which he has given his life, that they might listen to a statement from him as to the position and prospects of the emancipated negroes of the United States, and might also convey to him assurances of the high honour and regard in which he is held. This wish was very happily realised on Tuesday, June 26th, when some fifty gentlemen, at the invitation of the Anti-Slavery Society, met Mr. Garrison at breakfast at the Devonshire House Hotel, City.

Apologies, containing warm expressions of respect for the veteran Abolitionist, from Mr. John Bright and General Grant, were read by the Rev. A. Buzacott, the secretary. Among those present were Mr. Garrison, son of the guest of the day, Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir G. Campbell, M.P., Mr. Richard, M.P., the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., Mr. J. W. Pease, M.P., Serjeant Simon, M.P., Sir Wilfred Lawson, M.P., Mr. Barran, M.P.

Mr. S. Morley, M.P., Mr. Anderson, M.P., Mr. A. M'Arthur, M.P., Mr. J. Holms, M.P., Mr. W. Holms M.P., Mr. Edmund Sturge, Mr. S. Gurney, Mr. A. Arnold, Mr. Shaen, Mr. W. M'Laren, Rev. Dr. Aveling, Rev. R. Robinson, Rev. C. Bailhache, and most of the members of the Committee, &c.

After breakfast, which was served in a most admirable manner, Mr. Edmund Sturge introduced the guest of the morning, referring in simple and well-chosen words to Mr. Garrison's long and honourable career. In 1833 he had come to this country when we were engaged in the thick of the conflict respecting West Indian slavery, and his steadfastness and success in this great work from that time onward were well known.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., in response to the chairman's call, added a few words of greeting and welcome to Mr. Garrison. Referring to the length of time during which many present had been engaged in anti-slavery work, he said that he had not often seen so many young-looking old men. Having been invited by Mr. Sturge to speak of his visit to America he told a story of the elections at New Orleans, where he was asked if they were not conducted with as much order as in the old country. "Yes," he replied, "but even in our wretched old country we could manage to maintain quiet with thirteen companies of infantry in the city and five ships of war on the river." But in the building which was then used as the Court-house the troops were negroes, with negro officers, and they stood in the very room where before the war negroes were sold by auction. He would rather see those troops there than the public sale of women and children. As to the saying that the negroes would not work, General Grant told him at Springfield, before he went South, that the only people there he would find at work were the negroes, and he found them working for wages instead of toiling as the chattels of the owners. He would not allude to other countries, further than to hope that slavery there would be ended, and that the great European slave power, whatever its fate, would be unable to continue as a slave power. As to Mr. Garrison, he could not say in his presence what he should like to say of him. Enough, that even his strongest opponents now generally recognised the purity of his character and the sincerity of his actions. His career taught

a great lesson to politicians—that they ought to face courageously and frankly difficult questions. In America politicians had tried to ignore the question of slavery; had they followed Mr. Garrison's advice and example the great civil war with which the American slavery struggle ended might have been avoided. Mr. Forster then gave a few reminiscences of his recent visit to America, and concluded by reminding anti-slavery friends that there was yet work for them to do. Nothing was more shocking and melancholy than the persistency of the endeavour made by men to get forced labour from their fellow-men; and in some instances, where the word "slavery" had been got rid of, the danger was actually increased. The coolie traffic had a tendency to become the slave-trade under another name. He was thankful to recall the fact of the determination which had generally distinguished English administrators to maintain justice towards the coloured races over whom they had been called to rule.

Mr. LLOYD GARRISON (who was most cordially received) then delivered a deeply-interesting address. After some allusions to his visit to England ten years ago, and to the kind welcome then given to him, and to his confidence in the continued good-will of his friends in this country, he spoke upon American affairs.

THE COMPROMISE.

How was it (he asked) that for so long a period, from the beginning of the American Union, the great North, with its superior energies and resources, had been subjected to the South, subservient to the will of a slave-oligarchy? This state of things grew out of a compromise; it was the result of adhering to a false expediency, and the result had proved that nothing was to be gained, but everything lost, by the sacrifice of principle. The compromise spoken of first found expression in the Constitution of the United States, into which certain clauses had been introduced through the influence of South Carolina and Georgia. The owners of slaves were invested by the Constitution with a special representative power, their votes counting for more than those of owners of ordinary property; the foreign slave-trade was not to be meddled with for twenty years; the military force of the Union might be commanded for the suppression of slave insurrections; no fugi-

tive slave was to be allowed to find shelter in any part of the country. The North gave its consent to these provisions from a feeling of the necessity for a common bond of union between the States.

THE SOUTH FOR SLAVERY, AND THE NORTH FOR UNION.

Thus the whole nation was committed to slavery, and in the end the whole nation was involved in the judgment of God which slavery brought down. There was a difference, however, between the North and South with respect to this question—in the South nothing was counted so important as slavery; in the North nothing so important as the Union. The feeling of attachment to the Union was so strong in the North that it ran into idolatry, and men were willing to sacrifice justice, to sacrifice the slaves of the South to it. In the religious union of the States the same feeling prevailed—in the South slavery was everything, and the churches insisted on that; in the North union was everything, and the churches were too generally prepared to yield the question of slavery. It was so also politically. To secure power the parties in the North were willing to bid for the Southern vote by allowing the characteristic institution to continue. The judgment day had come at length both for North and South.

RESULTS OF EMANCIPATION.

Now a new dispensation had begun. The emancipation had been proclaimed in the midst of the greatest civil war ever known; but, so far as the slaves were concerned, it was a bloodless emancipation. Four millions of people had gone forth from bondage; but they had harmed neither person nor property, although, in the absence of their masters on the battle-field, everything was in their hands. To the question, Will they work? the answer was, Of course they will, if they are fairly paid for it, with cash instead of the lash; and thus the proper incentives to labour are supplied. The negroes had to contend with great difficulties; fraudulent contracts had been made with them. But the cotton crop—although women and children had been withdrawn from the fields—was never so valuable as now; the year before last its market value was 125 millions of dollars more than it had ever been before. Other industries were developing, and alto-

gether the politico-economical results of emancipation were hopeful and satisfactory.

The coloured population, however, had much to suffer yet, for North and South were not homogeneous. The South had intended to have a vast slave-holding empire, and was confident to the last that it would succeed. But a stupendous change had suddenly taken place. They had seen the slave taken at once from the auction block to the ballot box, transformed from a chattel into an American citizen. The shock was great, and the South had behaved quite as well as could have been expected—better than he (Mr. Garrison) expected. Whatever may happen, nothing can be so bad as the old state of things, for slavery genders a spirit which exalts itself above all that is called God. The negroes will be gradually educated; the enfranchised slaves are eager to learn and do not lack ability, and so power is passing into their hands. President Grant had had a difficult task. The old slave spirit was rampant still in the South, and after the first stupefaction following upon defeat was over, a great terrorism had been exercised over the negroes. Within the last ten years thousands of them had actually been killed, and thousands driven from their homes into the wilderness; and no white men had been punished for these crimes. In South Carolina General Grant had been called upon to preserve order by sending a military force, so that the negroes might have an opportunity to vote. A few soldiers were sent, but no liberty was interfered with except the liberty to cut throats. Thousands of negroes, in fact, abstained from voting through fear. General Grant, although a soldier, was thoroughly pacific in spirit. He had been basely maligned and cruelly traduced in America, and Mr. Garrison was glad of the rebuke which England had given his enemies in his own country by the reception accorded to him. Mr. Garrison could not speak hopefully of the next four years for America. Mr. Hayes was a man of fine character, upright and pure as a public man, but he had erred by lending himself to a policy of compromise with the South. He had reversed the policy of Grant, and had left the negroes, by the withdrawal of the troops from Carolina and Louisiana, as sheep among wolves. The Whites had now got possession practically of these States, and might commit any atrocities

they pleased. The Government of the United States cannot send troops again for the preservation of order without a requisition from the Governor or Legislature concerned, and the Whites will take care that no such requisition is made. The consequence will be that the Black votes will be so much waste paper, and the elections will be a farce. The elections in the States of New York and Indiana were also a farce. It was a foregone conclusion that after President Hayes's term of office had expired the Government would go into the hands of the South. Then everything possible will be done to repress the negroes, to prevent their education, and to keep them back. A trying time is before the United States; but this is, after all, only the oscillation of the pendulum, and the equilibrium will be at length attained. It is a transition period, but let none despair of America; she will be the ally and friend of Great Britain, and mother and daughter will embrace each other with the fondness of a lasting affection.

The Hon. EVELYN ASHLEY, said that slavery was now disturbing the peace of the world. Mr. Garrison had told them of the terrible issue of slavery in America. It must be obvious to all how slavery lay at the root of the disturbances in the Ottoman Empire. In fact it had always been a disturbing cause, and no country in which it existed should be admitted into the European concert.

MEMORIAL TO THE EARL OF DERBY

FOR THE EXTENSION OF CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS IN EGYPT AND ABYSSINIA, AND FOR FRIENDLY MEDIATION BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society, being deeply impressed with the urgent need of increasing British Consular Agents, both in Egypt and Abyssinia, and also along the Eastern Coast of Africa, resolved to present an address to Lord Derby on these subjects. Lord Derby, however, pleading great pressure of duty, declined to receive the deputation, but expressed his perfect readiness to give due consideration to any Memorial that might be sent to his Lordship. Under these circumstances, it seemed desirable to obtain the signatures of the friends of the Society

in the House of Commons, or at least of as many as had not left London; and it is with much pleasure we append the goodly list of members—from both sides of the House—who have supported the action of the Committee.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL OF DERBY, HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

MY LORD,—In August last the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, uniting with a deputation from Chambers of Commerce, presented a Memorial to your Lordship on the relations between Egypt and Abyssinia, the unchecked and increasing slave-trade in the Red Sea, and on the restrictions imposed on the legitimate trade of British vessels with the Red Sea ports.

The Committee then stated in their Address:—"It will be remembered by your Lordship that, on more than one occasion, we have stated to yourself, as well as to Earl Granville, your predecessor in office, that we viewed with the greatest apprehensions any extension of rule in Africa by Egypt. With the facts which are constantly transpiring, it is difficult to credit the Khedive with the sincerity which is claimed on his behalf. But if the reality of this sincerity be conceded, we have then the strongest proof that the most able and despotic of Mohammedan rulers is powerless for the suppression of the slave-trade within his dominions as long as slavery is a cherished institution of that country."

As your Lordship is aware, the Society have long and consistently advocated the maintenance of efficient Consulates at the foci of trade and population, in these and other slave-trading countries, as being more fruitful of permanent results, and far less costly than the measures chiefly relied on for the suppression of the traffic. The withdrawal of the Consulate at Khartoum in 1864 was ever regarded by the Committee as an unfortunate measure; leaving the slave-trade from the Upper Nile and the Soudan to flourish and to increase, unchecked and almost unknown.

The Committee regard those Consular arrangements which have of late been made by the Department over which your Lordship presides, in the Red Sea and on the

East Coast of Africa, as the inauguration of a sounder policy; and they venture to submit that there exist at this time strong and special reasons which demand that similar arrangements should be largely, yet judiciously, extended.

During the last few months, as is well known to your Lordship, the ruler of Egypt has conferred on Colonel Gordon powers of a most extensive character, in order to enable him to effect the suppression of the slave-trade. Assuming the *bonâ fide* nature of the commission thus conferred on an able and high-minded British officer, it will be obvious to your Lordship that, with a nominal jurisdiction extending from the shores of the Red Sea and the confines of Abyssinia to the Soudan, and southward to the Equator, his actual authority over such a vast region must be of a very shadowy kind; and that, in order to achieve any measure of success, he will need other and more reliable support than that of Musulman functionaries.

Not less have they deplored the policy which, at the close of the war between Great Britain and Abyssinia, renounced all further intercourse with Abyssinia, thus leaving that country to become, of necessity, a prey to intestine anarchy and war. It would have been, in their view, a juster and a wiser policy to have seized the occasion for entering into friendly relations with Abyssinia, in order to bring about the development of its commerce, and the suppression of the slave-trade.

In view of these circumstances, the Committee would suggest that Abyssinia has a claim for the moral support and good offices of Great Britain. This view is further strengthened by the fact that King John, the present ruler, is opposed to the slave-trade, and has already offered to make a treaty with Great Britain for the suppression both of slavery and the slave-trade in his dominions. It is a great satisfaction to the Committee to believe that the temporary cessation of hostilities between the Rulers of Egypt and Abyssinia is mainly to be attributed to the exercise of your Lordship's wise and judicious influence with the Egyptian Government; but, though hostilities are at present suspended, peace is not made, and the Committee respectfully suggest for your Lordship's consideration that the present is a favourable moment for the offer of friendly

mediation, and the appointment of a person qualified to negotiate a permanent peace.

Although King John, at present, refuses to treat with the Khedive, on the ground of his having violated international law by the imprisonment of his Envoy, yet the Committee have good reason to believe that the King would willingly treat, through the British Government, for the conclusion of peace with Egypt, on the basis of the possession by Abyssinia of a free port on the Red Sea, without which it is not reasonable to suppose that any peace could be permanent, and without which, after all that has taken place, it is impossible to believe that the commerce of Abyssinia could ever be properly developed and the slave-trade destroyed.

Considering that any friendly action in Abyssinia lies outside the great problem now disturbing the Ottoman Empire, that it would promote good government and commerce between Abyssinia and Great Britain, and would prove both a great relief and a gain to the resources of Egypt, the Committee respectfully urge these views upon the earnest consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

We are, with much respect,

JOSEPH COOPER, } *Hon. Secs.*
EDMUND STURGE, }

AARON BUZACOTT, B.A., *Secretary.*

27, New Broad Street, London, E.C.
August 7th, 1877.

P.S.—The undersigned Members of the House of Commons, concurring in the objects set forth in the foregoing Memorial, commend them to the earnest attention of Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed by)

GEORGE ANDERSON, M.P.
SIR ROBERT ANSTRUTHER, Bart., M.P.
HON. EVELYN ASHLEY, M.P.
JOHN BARRAN, M.P.
SIR THOMAS BAZLEY, M.P.
W. E. BRIGGS, M.P.
HUGH BIRLEY, M.P.
THOMAS BURT, M.P.
CHARLES CAMERON, M.P.
SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL, Bart., M.P.
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.
J. J. COLMAN, M.P.
JOHN CORBETT, M.P.
RICHARD DAVIES, M.P.
GEORGE ERRINGTON, M.P.
E. T. GOURLEY, M.P.
SIR H. M. HAVELOCK, Bart., M.P.
FARRAR HERSCHELL, M.P.
JOHN HOLMS, M.P.
WILLIAM HOLMS, M.P.
J. D. HUTCHINSON, M.P.

EDWARD JENKINS, M.P.
SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, Bart., M.P.
HON. A. F. KINNAIRD, M.P.
E. A. LEATHAM, M.P.
SIR JAMES C. LAWRENCE, Bart., M.P.
SIR ANDREW LUSK, Bart., M.P.
A. MACDONALD, M.P.
SAMUEL S. MARLING, M.P.
ALEXANDER MCARTHUR, M.P.
WILLIAM MCARTHUR, M.P.
DUNCAN McLAREN, M.P.
ARTHUR MILLS, M.P.
SAMUEL MORLEY, M.P.
A. J. MUNDELLA, M.P.
J. W. PEASE, M.P.
T. B. POTTER, M.P.
J. H. PULESTON, M.P.
HENRY RICHARD, M.P.
MR. SERJEANT SIMON, M.P.
RICHARD SMYTH, M.P.
JOHN WHITWELL, M.P.
BENJAMIN WHITWORTH, M.P.

REPLY.

"Foreign Office, August 17th, 1877.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, on the subject of the slave-trade in the Red Sea, and the relations between the Khedive and the King of Abyssinia, in which you urge that certain measures as to the appointment of Consuls at various places, &c., should be adopted, with a view to the suppression of that trade, and that the good offices of Her Majesty's Government should be employed on behalf of King John.

"In reply I am to state to you that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to appoint a Consul for the Egyptian Coast of the Red Sea; and that they will not fail to adopt such measures as experience may prove to be necessary for giving due effect to the provisions of the Convention which Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Alexandria has recently signed with the Egyptian Government for the suppression of the slave traffic in Egyptian territory, and of which I am to enclose a copy for the information of the Society.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble Servant,

"(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

*"The Secretary to the
Anti-Slavery Society."*

THE FELLAH.

"A LITTLE girl asked her father who was starting for Egypt if he should see Joseph at Cairo. The question was not so absurd as it may have seemed. Nothing astonishes the modern tourist more than to find the scenes described by Moses, and represented by the paintings in ancient tombs, still faithful pictures of the manners and customs of to-day. But Joseph, the

'discreet and wise' ruler, is nowhere to be discovered. There are prisons and executioners, coats of many colours, and Mrs. Potiphars in abundance. There are lean kine and fat sheaves, corn as the sand of the sea, honey, spices, myrrh, nuts, and almonds. There are cruel taskmasters and forced public works. The first-born is mourned in many a house, for the conscription has taken him and he returns no more. On all sides may be heard a great and bitter cry, not on account of bad harvests or unseasonable weather, not because of earthquakes or the low price of wool, but for unjust, grinding taxation, and hard, ill-paid toil. 'We work all day,' said a Fellah lately, 'for a morsel of bread, and the Khedive takes it out of our mouths.' It is extremely difficult to obtain correct information with regard to the real position of the peasant farmers in Egypt. It is impossible to believe even the oath of a native, but, by sifting contradictory statements, by contrasting the replies given by different dragomans to the same question, by riding along the inland roads, seeing the daily life and occupations of the people in their villages, shopping in the bazaars, and becoming acquainted with the small artisans, but above all by talking with the sailors who come from the various little towns round about, an intelligent person may, with a very moderate smattering of Arabic, obtain a fairly true notion of the state of that interesting and misgoverned country."

THE FELLAH ALMOST WORSE OFF THAN A SLAVE.

"The announcement made lately that additional exactions are to be laid on the already overburdened people cannot fail to raise a feeling of indignation in the mind of anyone who has become acquainted with the Fellah at home. We talk much in England about slavery in Egypt, and are greatly shocked that such a thing should exist anywhere. Benevolent people ask questions about it in Parliament, and old ladies become hysterical on the subject. The fact is that the position of a slave in an ordinary household is luxurious idleness and well-fed comfort compared to that of the peasant proprietor or agricultural labourer. There are strict and humane laws made for the slave. He can have justice for every wrong except that which made him a slave.

But the Fellah is practically helpless. No one can interfere because the taxes are increased in the Said, or because the land is in some places relapsing into desert, since the people can no longer buy seed, having nothing left after the collector's visit but their naked, hungry children and the bare mud. The money raised by taxation goes to enrich the collector, the governor, the pasha, the Khedive—everybody except the native Egyptian and Egypt. New streets and palaces, gardens and harems, harbours and lighthouses, are being made; but nothing comes back to the earners of the money which pays for these costly undertakings. Great sugar factories are built in which the machinery is constantly changed as English or French overseers are appointed. The old works are left to rust on the banks, though their price has been wrung from the life-blood of the people. When things were supposed to be at their worst last year, the Viceroy gave a sumptuous breakfast and presented each guest with a costly ring. His sons are growing up and require establishments. English horses, diamonds, eunuchs, and pretty Circassians are expensive necessities which must be provided. Daughters require dowries suitable to their exalted rank. Still more expensive are standing armies and fruitless expeditions to Abyssinia and Turkey. Immense sums go to entertain foreign visitors of distinction and to provide steamers and trains for them. English people are apt to forget that the Khedive, with all his virtues, is still a Turk. He impresses strangers who have the privilege of an interview with him by his ability, industry, intelligence, and good impulses. But he has had no early practical training, and has all his experience to acquire through making mistakes. Were he William Pitt himself he could not succeed in filling the positions simultaneously of Chancellor of the Exchequer, Foreign Minister, Minister of War, Board of Works, and general autocrat."

THE FELLAH PAYS THE COST OF IMPROVEMENT.

"The land, as its peasant cultivators say, is gold, not mud. For ordinary crops it requires no manure and little labour. The yield, with the most primitive tillage, is enormous. Two crops of corn may be grown in a year, or even three. The

moment a canal is made, the ground in its vicinity grows green. It needs no preparation for the seed but a little surface-scratching and small watercourses for irrigation. Along the Nile the shadoof goes all day long, except during the inundation, when it is not required. In some places the sakia, with its rows of graceful earthen jars, raises water both day and night. At the wheel two yoke of patient oxen relieve each other, driven by a child who ought to be at school. The Khedive spent a great deal of money in putting up large pumping engines; but they have turned out useless, partly because of the non-existence of fuel, partly because the smaller parts wear out, and cannot be replaced by native workmen. There is some talk of cutting a canal and floating wood down from the upper Nile. M. Lesseps has lately been over the ground, but bondholders must surely by this time be becoming somewhat chary of their help. Meanwhile the old labour-wasting methods must be retained. New canals might be multiplied indefinitely, always with splendid results, but, under the present system of forced labour, they can only be cut at the cost of the lives of many bread-winners. The Fellah, drafted away from his home, hard worked, ill-fed, harshly treated, dies of the slightest illness. It is said that when a new canal is begun the Khedive secures the land nearest to it, his officers take what comes next, and the Fellah who makes it gets little or no benefit. He is obliged still to stand at his bucket, and, with only a rag round his loins, work the water up to his little tenement, while the intense sun blazes down on his bare back and shaven head. It is unlikely that any private enterprise can spring up amongst the people to improve the cultivation of their farms. They are too poor, and have not time to learn about new inventions. The fine climate prevents them from being braced to exertion and rebellion, as would be the case in a more northerly country. But they do feel very sore to see the land slipping into the hands of large proprietors who take all the finest ground for sugar-cane."

CRUELTY AND RESULTS OF FORCED LABOUR.

"At sugar factories forced labour is the rule under a thin disguise. The labourers are paid in sugar, which is valued at the

Cairo price. If a man wishes it he can sell his sugar to the authorities at the factory, but it is at the local price. As the sugar is useless to him, he is thus robbed of a third or a fifth of his earnings. The land itself is made the means of similar extortions. It is revalued for taxation every six years, and if it is situated by the river, where the banks are altered by every inundation, the unfortunate farmer has often to pay for several years after his land has disappeared. Land left dry becomes the property of the village or 'commune,' and last year a sheykh was murdered by his own villagers for appropriating some common land to his own use. For this the village was burnt by the Khedive, who seized the land of the whole commune himself; and nothing can more plainly show the state of political degradation to which Turkish rule has reduced the country than that the punishment was looked upon as just, and acquiesced in without a murmur. The people do not care to grow sugar for the Khedive's benefit, but much prefer corn crops, of which both barley and wheat are everywhere common. The Fellah rarely eats his own wheat. It is a luxury far beyond him; but sailors in the Nile boats live on the brown bread made from it. The corn is left standing till it is perfectly hard, as there is no rain or wind to hurt it. It is in ear in February, and is reaped with the sickle; but in Nubia it is pulled up by the roots; and the farmer often, if he has a good crop, goes with it himself by boat to Cairo. It is classed according to the colour, which varies very much, and the straw is chopped fine as food for camels or fuel for steam-engines. The ordinary bread-stuff is 'doura,' which is much like Indian corn. This is sown before or during the inundation, 'cast upon the waters,' and is sometimes swept away. It is often roasted before it is ripe, but generally made into unleavened cakes. It is also given to fowls by those who can afford to feed their chickens; but generally the poor beasts pick up a precarious living amongst the dust-heaps, so that their eggs never taste fresh or milky, and their bodies are nothing but bones. The great staple in Egypt, however, is the date. Palms are heavily taxed by the suicidal policy everywhere seen under Turkish rule; and the Arabs say, alluding to this tax, that where the Turk

comes no trees can grow. So highly is it esteemed that, according to the native legend, when Allah had made man and woman, he had a little clay left, and of it He made a date-palm.

"Constant ill-usage has made the Fellah a coward and a liar, but he has courage and endurance when suffering is inevitable. You may see a man at work in heavy irons, yet he wears a cheerful countenance, and greets an old acquaintance with a pleasant laugh. He has committed no crime, and everybody knows it; but a crime had been committed, and somebody had to be punished. 'Khismet' willed that he should be charged, and, having no money to bribe the judge, he is condemned. So, too, rather than pay an increased tax, he will submit to the bastinado, and may be heard to boast of the number of blows he can bear and the weeks during which he was unable to put his feet to the ground. He looks upon Government as his natural enemy, and with good cause regards taxation as a Border farmer must have regarded blackmail. To him the Khedive is the lineal successor of the Bedouin freebooter who robbed his forefathers. He has no remedy against an overcharge, and no voice in the assessment of the tax. If there were a printed form setting forth his liabilities it would be useless, for he could not read it. By nature he is gay, sober and saving, yet he can be lavish on occasions, and does not grudge money spent in hospitality or charity. His own wants are few, but among them is music. Nothing can be done without singing. He sings at work, at play, in the field, at the wedding, at the funeral, as he rows his boat, as he rides his camel, in fact everywhere. Sometimes, as he works the shadow, there is great beauty in the oft-repeated cadence; but generally the European ear can find no melody in his music. The scale differs so much from ours that it cannot be played on any of our keyed instruments; and the principles on which it is founded are so involved that it is hardly possible even for a trained musician to unravel it. There is probably a mixture of the Greek and Asiatic scales; possibly there is a remnant of the old Egyptian harmony. The scientific musician finds much to interest him in following a song on the violin, but to the vulgar musical ear it is distracting. It may be roundly asserted that the attempts

made by Lane and others to write Arab melodies in our notation are ludicrous failures. The native performers sometimes show great skill in manipulating an instrument with two strings, and some Egyptian Paganini may blush unheard and waste his sweetness among dusky sailors on the Nile. At Cairo a leaning towards the European scale is sometimes very perceptible, owing to the opera companies which go there every year, and the military bands practise a kind of compromise which is most distressing to hear; but a concert of expert native performers in the Esbekeeyah Gardens is well worth hearing. In the country singers extemporize to a tune, but have special airs appropriate to all possible occasions. No other art is practised, and life goes on under the most simple conditions.

"The Fellah wears but one garment, and suffers from cold in winter, for he has no fire and no bedclothes, except perhaps a kind of quilt. He lives on unleavened bread, sour milk, raw vegetables, but sometimes for weeks together has nothing but dried dates. In towns the food is sold ready cooked, and consists of different kinds of haricots and lentils. His house is roofless, except for a few canes laid across the low mud walls. It contains no furniture; but in Upper Egypt there is generally a mat at the door, and a sort of raised divan made of mud. He can afford but one wife, who, like himself, has but one garment and a hood or veil, while his children go naked. In this respect, indeed, travellers remark greater poverty year by year. There is immense mortality among the children, partly, no doubt, from the dirt in which they are kept, as they are never washed before they are seven years old, but partly also from the absence of medical aid and the universal ignorance of the causes of disease. The women are in every respect inferior to the men. They are too poor to have employment; they have no stockings to darn, no house-linen to mend, no furniture or cooking implements to clean. They wash their one garment in the river, cleaning it with a piece of mud which acts like soap and pumice combined. They wear their bracelets and necklaces in the field where they pull corn or herd the cattle. They carry all the water required in their houses from the river in heavy jars, and sit long on the bank gossiping and catching fleas. Women in

Egypt do not say prayers like the men, and have a soulless expression which contrasts strangely with the intelligent and even noble look frequent among their husbands. Their highest idea of life consists in doing nothing. The daughters of a family are kept at home as long as possible, as it is a mark of respectability to retain them at least till they reach fifteen; but this advanced age is only attained in comparatively wealthy homes. In Nubia the position of women is better. Though the clothing is even scantier than in Egypt, they have some idea of working embroidery, weaving mats, and making baskets; and they keep their houses in better order, spreading the golden sand on the floor, and sweeping it clean. There are doors to all the houses, and sometimes an iron lock, and even a knocker. Over the doorway there is an attempt at ornament, and a plate or saucer begged from a passing dahabeeah is sometimes inserted. Before the door is a row of round mud bins, like barrels, for storing corn; and there are separate pigeon-houses. The pigeons everywhere eat more than they are worth, and contribute greatly to the dirt of the houses in Lower Egypt. Fever is rare, considering the filth, but there are stomach complaints and innumerable skin diseases of great severity. Ophthalmia is said to be decreasing in Cairo since the opening of new and better-watered streets, but everywhere else it is very common, and seems to be carried by the flies from child to child. There is also a mysterious sleeping sickness, about which doctors differ; it is always fatal. A man comes home from his work, lies down, and sleeps for three days, when he dies. It is impossible to get leave to make a post-mortem examination, though English physicians have repeatedly attempted it.

"It is hard to imagine a more dreary existence than that led by the ordinary Fellah. He is born, works hard all his life for wages of which he is robbed at intervals under the name of Government, and dies in his birth-place, his whole view through life having been bounded by the table-topped mountain at his own side of the river and the table-topped mountain at the other, under whose rocky sides a few little mud domes, a few little heaps of shining pebbles, mark the nameless graves of his people: the place to which when the end comes his body will be rowed across the Nile to a chant from

the Koran, just as five thousand years ago his forefathers were ferried over to the mummy pits, while a hymn was sung to Osiris, the Judge of the Dead."—*Saturday Review*, June 16, 1877.

ATTEMPT TO RENEW THE COOLIE IMMIGRATION INTO CUBA.

OUR readers will find in our next article the outline of a prospectus for the renewal of coolie immigration into Cuba. It is proposed to form a company which, while acting under the Spanish Government, will endeavour to carry out its specific purpose of securing mainly agricultural labourers. Our readers are very familiar with the horrors and cruelties with which the Chinese coolies have been treated in Cuba. We have laid before them in past numbers terrible extracts from the Report of the Chinese Commission to Cuba. One result of this Commission and its exposures was the refusal of the Chinese Government to carry out a treaty with Spain for the exportation of coolies to Cuba. The representative of Spain in China protested vigorously, and even talked of war to enforce the treaty, but the Chinese Government could not be coerced on this subject. Finding that the difficulty continued between the two Governments at Peking and Madrid, the Cuban planters have sought a different solution of the problem. In some respects the conditions named in the prospectus are not unfair, but there is an indefiniteness in others which will allow of all the atrocities of slavery. No mention is made of the period for the first contract. The second is for two years, and a coolie must go through six contracts (whatever number of years that may mean) before he is entitled to choice of labour or of master. We understand that half of the capital, or 1,000,000 dollars, was subscribed at the meeting in Havana, and as Cuban gold is all-powerful at Madrid, it may be supposed that no difficulty will be found in inducing the Spanish Government to please the slaveholders of Cuba. It will surprise us if the proposals obtain any consideration with the Chinese Government. At any rate the Committee of the Anti-Slavery

Society will not fail to make every effort to destroy this renewal of slavery, under the guise of a free colonisation under the contract system.

PROSPECTUS FOR THE FORMATION OF A COMPANY IN CUBA FOR COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

La Voz de Cuba, dated Havana 28th, April, 1877, contains the prospectus of a Company for the purpose, as it is called, of introducing labourers into Cuba. We give a rough outline of a scheme which aims at realising all the supposed advantages of slavery under the guise of introducing labourers into Cuba.

The prospectus contains the following items:—

“1. The formation of a Company in which all shall take part who subscribe—whether landed proprietors, merchants, or others—who are willing to adhere to its terms.

“2. The only objects to which the Company shall be devoted shall be the following:—

(i.) To endeavour, with the aid of the Government of the country, to remove, as soon as possible, the hindrances now existing in consequence of the continued interruption of treaties with the Chinese Empire in reference to the emigration of labourers from that country on the same conditions as before, with such modifications as shall be considered necessary, and especially when such may be possible under the terms of this prospectus.

(ii.) To secure from the several Governments the absolute monopoly of immigration from the Chinese Empire and the kingdom of Anam (Assam) necessary for the maintenance and development of agriculture in Cuba.

(iii.) The Company will import all labourers required to satisfy the wants of the Island, according to the demands made, without in any case benefiting more than the interest of capital at the current rate of the place, and a commission of five per cent. above the value of each expedition. To this effect, on the arrival of each vessel, a calculation shall

be made of the cost and expense incurred by bringing the labourers in it, and this amount shall be divided among the persons requiring coolies, on the express understanding that this charge is only on those who arrive in good health.

(iv.) The five per cent. commission referred to shall be applied towards the offices and officers of the Company, and the same shall be done with the produce of the workmen who arrive in bad health, according to the agreements made with them and the work they have done.

(v.) This fund, including the five per cent. commission, shall be devoted, firstly, towards the maintenance of the offices and employes, and the remainder shall be employed in paying the expenses of those coolies who wish to return to their own country, on conditions agreed upon (*see h*).

(vi.) The shareholders who contract for one-half of the Asiatics in each vessel shall have the preference; the remaining coolies being divided among those who may have solicited services of Asiatics.

(vii.) The Company will be managed by a superior officer, whose salary shall not exceed 6,000 dollars (£1,200) per annum; this officer being removable at the will of the principal administrative committee, to whose orders he will be subject.

(viii.) The Committee shall be composed of a president and four directors, who shall have the absolute direction of the Company, with full power to make all necessary payments in the interests of the Company, and who shall have power, when convenient, to carry out their plans.

(ix.) The capital of the Company shall consist of shares of the value of 10,000 dollars each, not transferable except in cases of succession, inheritances, &c., or with the authorization of the Committee.

(x.) When the Asiatics wish to serve the shareholders under the conditions agreed upon, declaring shareholders shall have preference in proportion to each share they represent.

(xi.) The capital subscribed for the

said shares shall be disbursed only according to the necessities of the Company; but if shareholders are required to expedite payments to the order of the management, it shall be for the sums, and at the dates, required by the directors within the value of the subscription, and the dates shall terminate not earlier than three, six, and nine months, which payments shall be binding at date, or renewable at the discretion of the directors. The capital shall be 2,000,000 dollars, divided into 200 shares of 10,000 dollars each.

(xii.) Shareholders who do not meet their engagements punctually shall forfeit their position in the Company, and be unable to enter again, without prejudice to the responsibilities incurred by the Company during the time they formed part of it.

(xiii.) Towards the expenses of forming the Company each shareholder shall immediately deposit 100 dollars for each share held by him.

(xiv.) The directors shall be appointed as by Article viii., by the majority of the votes of the shareholders, and the employes by a majority of the votes of the directors.

(xv.) The Company shall be established for five years. Shareholders can retire provided that all the obligations of the Company at their retirement are covered.

(xvi.) No shareholder shall be responsible for a larger amount than he has subscribed for.

CONDITIONS.

(xvii.) The conditions for which the sanction of the Supreme Government must be obtained before coolies can be introduced are the following:—

(a) The Chinese shall leave their country as free men for service in the Island of Cuba, preference being given to agriculture.

(b) They shall be brought under conditions of health, security, and humanity fixed by the General Law of 1860, with such modifications as the Governor may introduce for convenience.

(c) The cost of each coolie shall not

exceed 150 dollars in gold. Should it exceed that sum the excess shall be charged to the parties bringing him—if less, it shall be for the benefit of the said parties.

(d) The coolie, within thirty days of his arrival in the Island, shall freely contract himself for a part of the day with his patron or contractor to enable him to repay the cost of his importation—which in no case shall exceed half a day.

(e) The pay or day's work for service under the first contract shall not be less than eight dollars in gold, monthly, except in case of illness.

(f) The coolie, as a free man, can return to his own country when he has fulfilled his first contract, otherwise he must make a new engagement for the day's work for a period of two years.

(g) If at the termination of the third contract the coolie wishes to return to his own country, and has not the necessary means for doing so, he shall be sent back at the expense of the Government. To meet this a fund shall be formed by the payment of five dollars for each coolie who arrives in Cuba in a good state of health.

(h) From this fund also those shall benefit who for various causes unforeseen, or independently of their will, are unable or useless for work (*see* iv., v.).

(i) All coolies who have completed six contracts can remain in the Island free, and devote themselves to regular service without a contract.

(j) All coolies who are married shall be exempt from further contract after completing their fourth contract. In order to facilitate this object, the Company shall aid by bringing at least 25 per cent. of women into Cuba, who shall be subject to the same conditions as the men, but shall be paid six dollars wages per month.

(k) The coolie can obtain, like any other foreigner, his letter of Spanish citizenship, if required, provided always that he has faithfully completed six contracts, as required by the law,

without which he cannot give himself to other work than that specified in his contract.

(l) The obligations and mutual rights between patron and coolie shall be strictly enforced according to the law in force in Cuba.

(m) The coolie shall be able to keep his nationality in Cuba under the conditions of his contract, and shall not be allowed to change except for a Spanish nationality whatever may have been his port of embarkation in Asia.

(n) The Company shall enjoy exclusively the rights of introducing Asiatics into Cuba, and return them to their country for the sum of thirty dollars each, and always by vessels belonging to this nation.

"On these conditions the new coolie immigration cannot fail to be advantageous to all parties, and will be of great benefit to the moral and material interests of this Island without provoking conflicts about terms of international treaties, and will demonstrate the loyalty and good faith of this country by the completion of the contracts, if the Spanish Government will allow the representative of the Chinese Imperial Government to reside in the Island charged with the duty of completing the contracts with the inhabitants of Cuba.

"Havana, April 24th, 1877."

SPANISH KIDNAPPERS IN THE PACIFIC.

"We landed at the principal island, and found the people strikingly clean in appearance and quiet in manner. They have been Christianised by the efforts of a native Samoan missionary, who found them easy, docile converts. From a German, and a native, who could speak broken English, we learned a sad story. These harmless people had numbered 450 souls in 1857, all living in peace and plenty. In 1864 the German was absent for a short time at Samoa, and on his return he found but fifty worn-out people and children remaining—the rest had all been swept away by kidnappers. Three large barques, under

Spanish colours, had appeared off the islands, from which an old man had landed, who told the natives that they were missionary ships, and invited them on board to receive the holy sacrament. All the able-bodied men went on board in simple faith, and were immediately made prisoners; again the old fiend went on shore and told the assembled women and children that the men had sent for them, and they were also beguiled. The tragedy thus complete, the ships bore away, it was supposed for the Guano Islands of Peru; and not a word has ever reached the islands as to the fate of these lost ones from that day. It was sickening to hear the tale told on the spot which had seen all this sorrow. Two of the men, one of whom we saw, had contrived to jump overboard, and swim six or seven miles to the island."—*Captain Moresby.*

THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN IN NATAL.

THE British public will scarcely credit the practices which are allowed to be continued by native tribes within the area of our British Empire. In Natal, for instance, the Kaffirs have found out the advantage of living under British rule, and as they receive allotments of land, and retain most if not all their savage customs, they exhibit a more corrupt social life than is exhibited by the same tribes out of our colony. There is a Native Department of Government, which professes to watch over the natives, and while not interfering with their liberty restrains their most inhuman practices. Such at all events is the profession. No one can deny the assertion—as there is no record of such customs—no record of native laws—and the decision of an English magistrate concerning native criminals can always be set aside by the officials of the Native Department. The old arguments which opposed the abolition of Suttee in India, are promptly raised by the Native Department against any improvement, and the time has now come for decided action both on behalf of the natives themselves, as well as on behalf of social purity in the British Colonies. We have space at present for only one example. Mr. James W. Winter, late M. L. C. for Maritzburg, Natal, describes, in a small pamphlet just issued, how women are sold—sold, without their consent, by their

fathers to any who can pay his price—nominally called ten head of cattle. The young Kaffir will work until he has realised enough to buy a wife—when he immediately ceases from all labour—compells his slave-wife to support him as well as herself, and if there be any surplus, *that* is devoted towards the purchase of another wife. There seems no limit to the number of wives a man may purchase as his means increases. We need not point out how fearful is the bearing of this traffic both on liberty and on morals. In Natal the British Government secures the liberty of the man and not of the woman, and seems so jealous of his freedom as to deny any to native women. The Kaffir may be said to have more license than is allowed to Englishmen. Englishmen would speedily find themselves in prison and on the treadmill, &c., for actions which are freely allowed to Kaffirs under British rule. The following narrative will illustrate the working of native customs in Natal:—

"In the City, last week, a scene was witnessed as disgraceful and harrowing as any ever presented in the slave-markets of America in the days of the slave-trade. The victim was a helpless, unfortunate Kaffir girl, with an infant, who had been married to a 'decrepit, grey old man' of her race. She was his fifth wife; the three first deserted him in consequence of his cruel treatment; the fourth still lived with him, and she, the fifth, had deserted him for the same reason as the first three. She fled to Mr. Dillon, the City magistrate, for protection, and got a favourable judgment, which the husband appealed against, and Mr. Shepstone held his court as usual in the open air, on a plot of ground in the heart of the town adjoining the new Government buildings. The case produced great excitement among the Kaffirs, who formed the magic circle of the court, the circumference of which I would take to be about 150 feet, and was defined by rows of Kaffirs seated three and four deep. Agitated and vehement in voice and gesture, the Kaffir pleaders argued against the friendless criminal till they completely mesmerised the Kaffir audience, and great excitement prevailed. Mr. Shepstone pronounced the judgment, which reversed the decision of the magistrate, and condemned the woman to return to her husband. The yells which rent the air were fiendish. The

woman was seized by two men; the infant torn from her breast; she was beaten with sticks, and forced to follow the man who claimed her as his wife. On his back they tied her child, but the instinct of the mother even could not force her to follow the old wretch. She refused and resisted; they dragged her along the ground with her face downward, and continued to do so till she was divested of all covering. Disgraceful to say, in the streets of Maritzburg, a Kaffir woman who had suffered such inhuman treatment, naked, friendless, and helpless, had to look imploring in her suffering and shame to the face of the white man for help. She did not look in vain—they rescued her. One Kaffir was taken into custody; another escaped; and now Mr. Shepstone again appears upon the scene. The white and the black men have met with opposing power face to face. There is danger, and the Secretary for Native Affairs sees it; he rushes in and explains the case, endeavouring to stifle the sympathies of the white man for the black woman, whom his judgment had delivered, to what our experience and knowledge of such cases justifies us in calling 'fearful tortures.' She appeared at the trial of the man who was given in charge for assaulting her, who was fined half-a-crown; and when the magistrate was asked what she was to do, or what could be done for her, the witness stated that he replied, 'that anyone harbouring her, or giving her the slightest assistance, would be liable to an action for damages by the husband; that she might lie on the grass and die if she chose, but that no one ought either to molest or assist her.' If Harriet Beecher Stowe would make the world ring with another tale which might be based upon facts, as thrilling as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' here in the native policy of Natal she will find ample material for pictures of suffering, crime, and degradation, fostered and protected under the British flag, which is an outrage on the Queen, Lords, and Commons of England, who, if they knew the system which is carried on in their names, and under their authority, would 'take water and wash their hands' clear of the practices that now disgrace their rule. When we have complained of the effects of this native policy, we have always been answered that the peace and quiet which prevails in the colony, with a native population of twenty to one of

the white population, is an unanswerable demonstration of its soundness and wisdom. But we who are on the spot know that the system it has generated and fostered has not yet attained the consistency and body it is destined to, and is fraught with dangers which may appal the world if an effectual power to resist it does not grow with it simultaneously; that power we can now, fortunately, see coming to our aid in the form of Welborne's railway scheme. It will introduce population and means of defence, without which we would be powerless and helpless to subdue the barbarous mass who have been collected and gathered round us, and endanger our peace, our property, and our lives."

THOMAS BRASSEY, ESQ., M.P., ON SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

IN the August number of the *Nineteenth Century Review*, Mr. Brassey continues his interesting narrative of his voyage round the world in the *Sunbeam*, and having touched at Rio gives the following account of slavery in Brazil, as it presented to him its best aspects during his visit. The existence of such a system in a Christian Empire is a slur on the honour of the Divine Founder of Christianity, and an impeachment of the government of this vast Empire. No nation ought to be admitted amongst civilised nations which allows slavery and an internal slave-trade:—

"I had never before been in personal contact with the institution of slavery, and the reflection that the large congregation before us was composed of people living in a state of bondage was inexpressibly sad. Nor did the privation of personal liberty seem a less intolerable misfortune because the slaves were well fed, well clothed and well housed. As the voices of the little negroes, who stood in front of the congregation, were lifted up in touching harmony to heaven, they recalled the hymn taught in the early days of infancy to every English child:—

'I was not born a little slave
To labour in the sun,
And wish I were but in the grave,
And all my labour done.

'My God, I thank Thee, who hast planned
A better lot for me.'

.

"Baron Rio Bonito is the owner of three coffee plantations and 1,500 slaves. His establishment at which we were received is most complete. It contains an hospital, a flour mill, a sugar refinery, an apparatus for making potash, a distillery, and a well-equipped forge and smithy.

"An able-bodied slave in a liberally managed *fazenda* is employed about nine hours a day in field labour. His food is abundant, and he receives medical attendance and hospital treatment, without deduction from any savings which he may have accumulated.

"The annual value of the labour of a good slave is estimated at £80, and the cost of his maintenance at £15. A piece of land is allotted to each slave, the produce of which is bought by the owner at the market price. By working on Sundays for the whole day the slave can make about 2s. 7d. The accounts, to which the slave can have access, are kept by the master.

"Each slave has a small hut, which he occupies with his family during the day. At 9 p.m. all the working hands are required to retire to their respective dormitories, where they are locked up during the night, and whence they are despatched with absolute punctuality to their work in the morning.

"The importation of negroes from Africa has long since ceased. Formerly as many as 40,000 slaves have been introduced into Brazil in the course of a year. In 1871 a measure was introduced, and accepted by the Legislature, for the abolition of slavery. The report by Mr. Phipps on the trade of Brazil for 1872 contains a detailed statement on the subject of the emancipation of slaves. Its main provisions are that 'all children born of slave women shall be considered free, but shall remain at the charge of the owner of their mothers until they shall have completed the age of eight years. When the child is at that age, the owner of the mother will have the option of receiving £60 from the State as compensation (in which case the child will be received by the Government and disposed of according to the provisions of the law), or else may have the use of the child's services for thirteen years until he attains his majority.'

"It was proposed to form the Emancipation Fund with the proceeds of the tax

on slaves, and the tax on the transmission of property in slaves.

"In 1871 the number of slaves was estimated at 1,609,673. The number of births was little more than half the number of deaths, among the slave population, and the joint result of the decrease in the total number, and of the manumissions which are constantly taking place, was to cause an annual net decrease at the rate of 4.2 per cent.

"Notwithstanding the recent legislation, the market value of the slaves is increasing. Formerly an able-bodied slave could be bought for £20, or less than the price of a horse. Now more than £200 is often paid for a man in the prime of life. Untrained female slaves are worth 40 per cent. less than men. Women, if clever in sewing, cooking, or household work, command higher prices than men not trained in field or domestic labour. It is equally strange and repugnant to see the columns of the Brazilian newspapers crowded with advertisements inserted by persons anxious to buy or to sell these unfortunate bondsmen."

Mrs. Brassey's diary contains the following description of the *modus operandi* of the Brazilian slave-trade:—

"We have all been much interested in the advertisements we read in the daily papers of slaves to be sold or hired; so Mr. O'Connor kindly made arrangements with a Brazilian gentleman that some of our party should have an opportunity of seeing something of the way in which these transactions are carried on. No Englishman is allowed to hold slaves here, and it is part of the business of the Legation to see that this law is strictly enforced. The secrets of their trade are accordingly jealously guarded by the natives, especially from the English. The gentlemen of our party therefore made themselves look as much like foreigners as possible, one of them pretending to be a rich Yankee who, in conjunction with a compatriot, had purchased large estates down South, between Santos and San Paulo, which, after some deliberation, they had determined to work with slave instead of coolie labour. He had therefore come to Rio to select some slaves, but would have to see and consult his partner before deciding to purchase any. They were taken to a small shop in the city, and, after some delay, were conducted to a room upstairs,

where they waited about a quarter of an hour. Twenty-two men and eleven women and children were then brought in for inspection. They were suitable for a variety of occupations, indoor and out, and all appeared to look anxiously at their possible purchaser, with a view to ascertain what they had to hope for in the future. One couple in particular, a brother and sister, about fourteen and fifteen years old respectively, were most anxious not to be separated, but to be sold together; and the tiny children seemed quite frightened at being spoken to or touched by the white men. Eight men and five women having been specially selected as fit subjects for further consideration, the visit terminated.

"The daily Brazilian papers are full of advertisements of slaves for sale, and descriptions of men, pigs, children, cows, pianos, women, houses, &c., to be disposed of, are inserted in the most indiscriminate manner. In one short half-column of the *Jornal do Commercio*, published within the last day or two, the following announcements, amongst many similar ones, appear side by side:—

FOR SALE.—A female slave, twenty-two years of age, a good figure, washes, irons, and sews well. For particulars apply at No. 97, Rua de S. Pedro.

FOR SALE, OR TO BE LET ON HIRE.—A splendid trichord pianoforte, by Erard, for 280 dols., guaranteed. Apply at Rua da Quitanda, No. 42, second floor.

TO BE SOLD FOR 1,500 DOLS.—A male slave, twenty years of age, fit for a baker's establishment. Apply at Rua da Princeza dos Cajueiros, No. 97.

FOR SALE.—On very reasonable terms, a Singer's sewing machine, adapted for any description of work; works splendidly. Apply at No. 95, Rua do Sabao.

FOR SALE.—A good black woman, good figure, good disposition, with three children, who are a little black girl, six years of age, a black boy of five, and a child three years of age. She is a good cook; washes and irons well. At the same house there is likewise for sale a little black girl, twelve years of age; her character will be guaranteed; she is well adapted for the service of a family, as she has had a good be-

ginning, having come from Santa Catharina. Apply at No. 90, Rua da Uruguaiana; first floor.

"The work of renewing a coffee plantation is most arduous. The plants will not bear fruit more than twenty-five years, after which period they are cut down, and holes are dug to receive new plants. Again, the task of picking the coffee is most laborious, partly on account of the heat, partly because the task exacted is very severe. An unskilled European could not pick more than three bushels of coffee daily. From a slave nine to ten bushels are required.

"The slaves are utterly ignorant. Baron Rio Bonito—kind as he is, in so far at least as a slave owner can be kind to his herd of slaves—considers it quite unnecessary, not to say impolitic, to establish elementary schools on his plantations. On many coffee estates the negroes are badly treated, being driven to labour, under terror of the lash, to the utmost point which the human frame will endure. Even under liberal planters we may be sure that all the labour is required from the slave of which he is believed to be fairly capable."

THE RT. HON. E. H. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN, M.P., ON SLAVERY IN THE TRANSVAAL.

In the debate on the annexation of the South African Republic Bill, in the House of Commons, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., made the following statement in support of the Government measure. He said he was "anxious to state the reasons why he was prepared to give Her Majesty's Government a candid and cordial support in the matter of the annexation of these Colonies. His hon. friend would have moved, if the forms of the House had permitted, that the annexation was unjustifiable and calculated to be injurious to the interests of the United Kingdom and of the Colonies of South Africa; and he (Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen) very much regretted that the forms of the House did not allow him to move that. He had a perfect conviction that when this subject was calmly and deliberately considered the House would by a large majority support the policy of the Government. The Under

Secretary for the Colonies, under the weight of responsibility which must attach to him, might well feel some delicacy and difficulty in speaking of past transactions; but no such feeling would prevent him from stating the impression which the whole narrative in the Blue-books had made upon his mind. It had been said, and might be said again, that this annexation had been made in violation of treaties. Now he was anxious to show that there had been no violation of treaties at all, and that annexation had become absolutely necessary."

SLAVERY WAS A VIOLATION OF TREATIES.

"The question of slavery bore on the violation of treaties in a very direct manner. We had guaranteed to the emigrating Boers the right to manage their own affairs without interference. That was one article. Another article was that no slavery should be practised by the emigrating Boers. But it was well known that from that time the system of slavery had been going on ever since. There could be no doubt that the treaty had been violated, and being violated by the one party its relative obligations were no longer binding on the other. The existence of slavery was never denied. No remonstrance on the part of the Government had availed to check it. There was a public sale of slaves in the chief towns."

SLAVERY UNDER THE GUISE OF CHILD APPRENTICESHIP.

"In 1868 the Legislative Council of Natal passed a number of resolutions in which the slave-trade was referred to as practised under the guise of child apprenticeship. So long as this traffic in children was suffered to exist there could be no hope for the progress of civilisation in the native tribes living in the Transvaal Republic. It had a most barbarous and injurious effect. No answer was made by the Boers to these charges. This was thus a clear violation of one of the most important stipulations of the treaty between the Transvaal Republic and Her Majesty. Some hon. gentlemen talked as if the South African Republic had been established in

1852; but it was no such thing. There was merely a licence to the Boers to manage their own affairs. He quoted a remarkable memorandum from the President of the Transvaal Republic himself to the Earl of Carnarvon in 1865, which admitted the existence of the inhuman practice of slavery. He also quoted a letter of the special correspondent of the *Cape Argus*, in which slavery was described as one of the peculiar institutions of the country, characterised by all those circumstances which had so often roused the British nation to indignant protests, and sustained efforts to banish it from the world. So much for slavery; but there was something else to which attention must be called. His hon. friend had talked of 'some inevitable dispute about land.' They could not read these Blue-books without coming to the conclusion that annexation had become absolutely necessary."

THE LATE MR. T. J. DAVIS, OF BARBADOES.

It is with real grief we have to record the sudden death of Mr. T. J. Davis, a young native of Barbadoes, who, as known to some of our friends, came over to this country to complete his medical course of study, with a view to returning again to his native land, and devoting himself to the welfare of his countrymen. All the hopes cherished concerning him and his future career are doomed to disappointment. He died at Aberdeen, on July 25th, 1877, of undeveloped mumps. Inflammation of the brain resulted, and after two or three days of unconsciousness he died in his lodgings at Aberdeen. No news of his illness reached the Committee prior to the news of his death, but they have a sad consolation in knowing that Mr. Davis was carefully tended during his illness,—that all that the best medical skill could do for him was done,—and that he was borne to his grave followed by several friends of the University, &c. We tender our best thanks to Mr. Chrimes, of Rotherham, who generously defrayed all the expenses of the funeral; and to the Rev. David Arthur,

who very promptly and kindly represented the Committee, in word and deed, on this mournful occasion; and to his relatives in Barbadoes we also express our warm sympathy.

The following appeared in the *Daily Free Press* of July 27th, and is, we believe, in the main an accurate narrative:—

"The name of Mr. Thomas Joshua Davis, student of medicine, appeared in our obituary of yesterday, and the circumstances of his death and previous history, so far as known to us, are sufficiently peculiar to warrant a word of notice. Mr. Davis was a man of colour, a native of Barbadoes, where we understand his father, while he lived, had had some little property. His elder brother, Mr. Christopher J. Davis, came to this country some nine years ago, and entered himself as a student of medicine at Aberdeen. Remarkably handsome in person, Christopher Davis was a young man of excellent intellectual parts, bright and lively disposition, and withal moved by a deep religious enthusiasm and moral earnestness. He speedily became a great favourite among his fellow-students, and indeed wherever he was known. Having taken his M.B. and C.M. degrees here he proceeded to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, whence, on the outbreak of the Franco-German War, he went as a member of the Red Cross Society to attend on the wounded and dying, where his self-denying, skilful, and unceasing services, earned for him the title of 'the good black Doctor' among the sick and wounded French soldiers. And his death, of small-pox, at Sedan while pursuing his useful career, was the theme of widespread regret. Thomas Joshua Davis, to whose decease we now refer, was a young man of a precisely similar spirit and animated by similar desires. Previous to coming to this country he had studied for some time at Harvard University, U.S., America. His means were, we believe, very small; but on the recommendation of Mr. Pope Hennessey, to whom, as Governor of Barbadoes, he was personally known, the Anti-Slavery Society had arranged to bear some part of the cost of his education. Mr. Richard Chrimes, of

Rotherham, Yorkshire, also took an interest in him as he had done in his brother ; and he was able to join the medical classes at Aberdeen last winter session, delivering also, as some readers will recollect, one or two public lectures on the subject of slavery during the winter. He was deeply interested in questions concerning the moral and spiritual improvement of the people, and frequently took part in conducting religious services. Mr. Davis was seized with illness in the course of last week, his complaint being undeveloped 'mumps' or swelling of the glands of the neck, which went to the brain, delirium setting in several days before his death. He had, we understand, suffered from a brain complaint some two years ago, which had probably left its effects. The death of the amiable and excellent young man at the early age of twenty-seven, and in the circumstances indicated, has excited a very keen feeling of sympathetic regret. It will, however, be satisfactory to those to whom he was known to be told that, though he died among strangers, every kindness was shown to him in his illness ; all that medical skill could do being done, under the assiduous direction of Dr. Harvey, Professor of *Materia Medica*."

SIR ARTHUR GORDON, GOVERNOR OF FIJI, ON THE LABOUR QUESTION.

SIR ARTHUR GORDON explained to a meeting of planters, on November 23rd, 1876, the peculiar difficulties involved in the Labour Question, in reference to Fiji. We give his own words, simply indicating the various points in his address by different headings.

"But it will be said, and very truly said, that land is of no value without labour to work it, and there is probably no subject which has occupied the minds of the settlers more than that of labour. It had not less (said his Excellency) engaged his own. Labour in this colony it was clear must always be performed by men of a tropical race. This is not a locality in which Europeans can endure a life of manual toil. It had been his hope and wish that Indian

coolie labour might be introduced, and he still for many reasons regarded this as the best source from which to look for a permanent and adequate supply of agricultural labour, but he feared that the expense of coolie immigration was too great for either the planters or the Government to undertake it at the present time."

POLYNESIANS PREFERRED TO COOLIES.

"Hardly any one had sent in a requisition for coolie labour, and he must admit that, although from the greater length of their engagement, and other reasons, coolie labour was not really as expensive as at first sight it seemed to be, the initial expense attending it was undoubtedly considerable ; too considerable he feared for the present means of the community. Polynesian labour was the next to be considered. It was labour of a most useful character, and one the supply of which ought by all means to be encouraged, but it was not a source of supply which could securely be depended upon."

COLONIAL COMPETITION FOR LABOUR.

"Here, too, the question of money came in the way. Not only did the Queensland Government offer very much higher terms than we do, but they are about to raise them still higher, and in the face of these inducements it is nonsense to suppose that any fancied preference of climate or food will lead intending emigrants to choose Fiji rather than Queensland. The unanimous testimony of labour agents, men-of-war, missionaries, of all late visitors to the New Hebrides or Solomon Islands is that, as a rule and where there is a choice, labour in Queensland is much preferred to labour elsewhere. So that unless we can afford to pay far more highly for it than we do now there is every reason to expect that we shall receive less and less help from this quarter. But if we can afford to pay more highly for Polynesian labour than at present we should be able to pay for coolie labour.

"It has however, been assumed that this is impossible. If so, it is equally impossible for us to raise the wages of Polynesians to the Queensland rates, and in this case both coolie and Polynesian labour will become to us equally unobtainable."

THE ALTERNATIVE.

"There only remains, then, native Fijian

labour to look to. Now this labour was of a very useful and valuable kind, and, up to a certain point, its employment deserved and would receive from him, every encouragement. Nevertheless, he thought that if they relied exclusively on Fiji for their supply of labour they would be found trusting to a broken reed. In the first place, he doubted whether a supply adequate even to the existing wants of the planter could readily be obtained, and he was very sure that should agricultural enterprise receive that development which we all looked for, it would become absolutely impossible to meet the demand, even although much greater temptations were held out than is now the case to induce natives to engage."

THE ABUSES OF THE LABOUR TRADE.

"His Excellency's opinion that the settlers of Fiji may be compared favourably with those of other colonies has already been given, and he has seen no reason to modify it, but it would be idle to deny that there have been abuses in this trade, or that there have been, and still are, men among us who are thoroughly unscrupulous in effecting their object, and who would not hesitate to take advantage of every opportunity of advancing their own interests at whatever cost of wrong or injury to others. It is against such men that restrictive laws are directed. In fact, all laws whatever impose restrictions more or less irksome on the good, which would be wholly unnecessary but for the obligation to provide a security against the possible actions of the bad. Last year he thought that he might safely go so far as to abolish the license which the intending employers of Fijian labourers had then to take out. Experience had, however, he feared, showed him that, as concerned at least the recruiters of labour, he was mistaken, and it would, he was sorry to say, probably, be necessary to re-enact the provision he had repealed."

DIFFICULTIES OF THE QUESTION.

"The whole question had cost him much anxious thought. He was most desirous to encourage the employment of Fijian labour, and he would take care that no frivolous or capricious interference with its quest was allowed. But still it was only within certain limits that he was disposed to act, and though anxious to promote the supply of

native labour to the plantations, he was not prepared to sacrifice every other consideration to it, nor did he hold it at all desirable that there should be a general exodus of able-bodied men from any district, leaving behind them the old, the infirm, the women, and the children. It is natural that the planters should look only to the number of hands they could procure, but, in his position, he had other points also to contemplate. If any district were drained of its able-bodied men, a vast number of persons would be (as would be said in England) 'thrown upon the parish,' that is to say, they must starve, or be supported by the local authorities or the Government, or, in other words, from the proceeds of the taxes paid by the whole community. In former times these people and their interests might be overlooked, but that could not now be permitted, and if it became necessary to raise a poor-rate for their support, the financial advantage derived from a larger supply, of native labour would soon dwindle away. The moral and social evils of such a state of things were too obvious for it to be necessary for him to dwell on that part of the subject. It would appear then that coolie immigration was too expensive for the planters to afford; that Polynesian immigration could only be successfully continued at a cost not much smaller; and that Fijian labour would probably in any case be insufficient in amount, and that its supply was further restricted by higher considerations, social and political.

"What then was to be done? The question was a very difficult one. In its consideration it must not be overlooked that an immigration system could not be suddenly improvised when wanted, and that unless arrangements were made beforehand, we should find ourselves some day without any labour at all. The inaction of the Government was complained of, but he had a strong suspicion that many of those who were clamorous that 'something should be done,' had no very clear ideas as to what that something should be."

PROPOSAL FOR RAISING A LOAN.

"He would tell them what, on the whole, after much doubt and consideration, appeared to him the most feasible way of affording assistance and relief to the planting interest. He proposed to ask the sanc-

tion of the Imperial Government to the raising of a loan, to be applied partly to the introduction of immigrant labour, and partly to advances to facilitate the establishment of agricultural operations and sugar manufacture, on sound principles and a large scale, when planters are prepared to enter on such enterprises with fair prospect of success. Of course there are many cases of ruin too irretrievable to be averted by any such assistance, but in many others he believed it would make the whole difference between calamitous failure and a recovery of position sufficient to place them on the road to success, prosperity and wealth. He felt by no means certain of the acquiescence of her Majesty's Government in this plan, nor did he himself propose it without much reluctance, for he was quite aware of the manifold objections to such a policy, but he saw no other which offered equal chances of averting the misfortunes which threatened an important—he might almost say the most important—portion of the community.

"Before quitting the subject of labour, he would remark that certain members of the Agricultural Association had proposed to him that all applications for Fijian labour should be made to the Agent-General of Immigration, and that the labour should be obtained by means of recruiters under the supervision of the Agent-General by voluntary enrolment on a list to be kept by the stipendiary magistrates. If the numbers thus obtained do not come up to those applied for, it is suggested that the deficiency should be made good by a levy from each district unable to pay the full amount of taxes proportionate to its population. He would be glad to know whether these proposals (with respect to which he would at present refrain from expressing any opinion whatever) did or did not meet with the approval of the planters of Taviuni."—*Fiji Times*, Nov. 29, 1876.

"AFRICANS AT CONGO."

The following will be found in our report of yesterday's debate in the Commons:—"In reply to Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. Bourke said that the Government had received reports as to an occurrence at a Dutch factory near Congo, in which several Africans had lost their lives. A British subject

having been implicated in the affair, the matter had been laid before the Law Officers of the Crown." The transaction referred to was described on the 15th of June in our columns by a Naval Correspondent, writing under date St. Helena, May 21:—"After I last wrote on the 10th of January we lay in the Congo till the end of the month, when we went to a pretty bay called Cabenda, about thirty miles from the mouth of the Congo, where there are three trading factories—English, Dutch, and Portuguese. Towards the end of March we steamed up the Congo to a place about thirty miles or so from the mouth, called Ponto or Puerto de Lenha, meaning in Portuguese, 'Port of the Wood.' It is a trading place erected on piles. It contains an English, French, Dutch, and Portuguese factory, and is a most unhealthy spot on the right bank of the river. A very tragic occurrence is said to have happened here some time about the beginning of April. It appears that the slaves (for domestic slavery still flourishes on the coast) belonging to a certain trader at this place made a fetish—by which is meant casting a spell, or giving the evil eye, or something connected with the black art, and which has great influence over the superstitious people. The fetish man, with about thirty blacks, made the fetish that the trader should die, and in order that the fetish or charm should not fail in its effect they set fire to some of the outhouses, hoping to burn down the factory and kill the trader, who is a Portuguese. He, however, discovered the conspiracy, and it is charged that, with the assistance of other traders, he fastened the negroes in chains in gangs of from five to ten, took them out in the river in a boat, and drowned about thirty. I don't wish to say much about this terrible accusation, as it is at present under investigation by the British Consul at St. Paul de Loanda; but I must state that, so far as I myself am concerned, I have been repeatedly shocked and horrified by the cruel way in which the negroes are treated by the traders in whose employment they are, either as servants or slaves. Every trader of consequence has usually from twenty to thirty of these negroes, called Krocboys or Kroomans, who are principally natives of Cabenda or Cape Palmas, south of Sierra Leone."—*Times*.

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